

Ward Avenue Presbyterian Parsonage
100 Coleridge Avenue
Llysven Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5873

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO.
154 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WARD AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN PARSONAGE

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
154-
HABS No. PA-5873

Location: 101 Coleridge Avenue

Date of Erection: 1916

Description: This is a classic, no-frills American foursquare: two bays wide, two rooms deep, two stories tall. The hipped roof has front and side hipped attic dormers and overhanging eaves. Brick veneer is not standard but common, as is the full porch with its shed roof and square brick columns.

History: Percy Rich, president of Standard Coal Company, bought the lot next to the Presbyterian Church in 1915. He divided it in half and had identical houses built on the sublots in 1916. Four years later he sold the house at 103 Coleridge Ave. and conveyed this house to the church as a parsonage. It has served that purpose ever since. By the late 1910s, this kind of independent development was on the increase in Llyswn, both for speculative and for rental/investment purposes. Usually the developer was an outsider, trading on Llyswn's residential reputation and inexpensive lot prices in relation to other neighborhoods. This case is unusual only because Percy Rich lived across the street from the lots he subdivided, in a large house on an oversized lot at 100 Coleridge Ave.

Sources: Maps: 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 178/19, 228/56, 233/376, 274/283.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswn (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.